SKETCH OF THE GRAMMAR OF THE LUISEÑO LANGUAGE OF CALIFORNIA[1]

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The Luiseño Indians are of Shoshonean origin and are the most southwesterly tribe of that linguistic family in the United States. They number some 800 or 900 individuals, about two-thirds of whom live in the basin of San Luis Rey river, southern California.

There are no articles in the Luiseño language; instead of 'a . . .' or 'the man is coming,' one says, ' man is coming,' or, occasionally, 'one man is coming.' Nor are there true comparatives; one cannot say ' this is good," 'that is better,' 'that is best,' but 'this is a little good,' 'that is good,' 'that is very good.' There are also certain roundabout methods of expressing comparison.

With few exceptions no distinction is made between masculine and feminine gender, but a clear distinction is made between the gender of animate and inanimate objects.

Generic names are the exception. As a rule there are names for each species, but none for the genus; yet to this rule there are not a few exceptions.

Incorporation, generally considered to be one of the most characteristic features of Indian languages, exists to a very limited extent in Luiseño; and complete incorporation, in which the subject, verb, and object are formed into a single word, is wholly lacking. With some reservation Luiseño may be considered a semi-incorporative language.

In writing the language we have spoken of the changes that take place in the termination of words to express their changes of meaning as case-inflection. Our reason for regarding these changes as case-endings is that they are affixed to the word root or stem,

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[1] Read at the meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, August 30.

and not to its nominative case, hence they appear to be as truly case-endings as are similar changes in Latin. Personal pronouns have no fewer than twelve such case-endings; but no noun has more than eight; many of them have only five, and the names of the cardinal points but three.

There are but five numerals in Luiseño, higher amounts being counted chiefly by means of the fingers and toes. ' All my hand finished,' meaning, of course, all the fingers of both hands, would signify ten; 'all my hand finished, and one my foot,' is fifteen; 'all my hand my foot finished,' twenty; 'five times all my hand my foot finished,' one hundred. There is no abstract word for any number exceeding five.

Plurals are somewhat irregular, but they are oftener formed by the addition of -*um* than in any other manner. In the inanimate gender it is not customary to use the plural except when necessary, the fact that a numeral, an adjective denoting plurality, a plural verb, or a plural demonstrative pronoun occurs in the sentence making the plurality of the noun understood. In the animate gender, however, plural nouns, as well as the numerals, adjectives, and demonstrative or possessive pronouns that may accompany them, are all inflected to indicate the plural.

Nouns are either primitive or derivative. There is no known compound noun in the language. Of the derived nouns nearly all are of verbal derivation; the exceptional few are derived from other nouns. Many nouns have no absolute form at all, and can be employed only with a conjunctive possessive pronoun prefixed to them. Among this class of nouns are those that denote terms of relationship, so that one cannot say simply 'father' or 'mother,' but 'my father,' 'our mother,' etc. The names of most parts of the body also have no absolute form; and there are also many other nouns that have only the possessive form.

In Luiseño, pronouns are independent words, but in some tenses of the subjunctive mode and in certain verb-forms their roots are prefixed to the verb in the same manner as they are prefixed to nouns of the inanimate gender and to relationship terms to indicate their possessive form. An objective pronoun is never incorporated with a verb.

Luiseño possessive pronouns differ according to gender. In the animate gender the absolute and conjunctive are the same : " my and mine," " thy and thine," would be the same in this gender, with the exception of terms of relationship. But in the inanimate the absolute and conjunctive differ, the latter being always attached to the noun : " my hat" would therefore be one word. And when a possessive pronoun is prefixed to a noun in this manner, the noun-ending invariably changes, generally being shortened, but sometimes lengthened : *yūm'-pish*, ' hat,' would therefore be, *no-yūm'-py*, ' my hat.' Such shortening of a noun when a possessive pronoun is prefixed to it seems to be rare in Indian languages generally, although it is characteristic of Nahuatl.

There are a great many adjectives in Luiseño, and they usually follow the words that they qualify, though in some forms of speech they may be placed before or after the noun at will. Some adjectives may be conjugated as verbs (as, ' I was thirsty ') by using an adjective and an auxiliary verb as in English ; or the same idea may be expressed by conjugating the adjective without using the auxiliary verb at all. With one exception adjectives are declined for case in the way that nouns are, and they agree with the nouns that they qualify in gender, and usually in number and case.

As in all Indian languages, the verbs in Luiseño are greatly complicated. They have a number of modes with no counterpart whatever in English or cognate languages ; they may also have several different conjugations formed from the same root, each with its modes the same as the principal verb, that is, its simplest form.

The verbal root itself generally remains unchanged, and the corresponding tenses of the different modes and conjugations formed from the same root usually, though by no means always, have the same inflection, the changes being made by means of infixes. Hence a Luiseño tense consists usually of three parts, viz., the verbal root, the infix, and the inflection proper.

The change of a verb from the transitive is also effected by an internal change in the verb, not by inflection.

In the conjugation of verbs there is no instance of the three persons singular differing from each other, nor an instance of the three persons plural differing ; and in most of the tenses all six persons are alike.

In what corresponds to the indicative mode in English there are no fewer than eleven tenses in Luiseño, several of which denote different degrees of remoteness of past time.

Many verbs differ for number, having both a singular and a plural form; some have several plural forms, while others have forms denoting different degrees of intensity. Some verbs also differ for gender, but this is not usual. Many verbs contain the object within themselves, being at once predicate and object, like the Spanish verb *leñar*, ' to get wood.'

Most Indian languages are said to have no verb ' to be,' but in Luiseño there are several, though none has the exact meaning of the English ; they are more nearly equivalent to the Spanish verb *haber*, ' to have,' when used to express ' there to be.' They have also a partly adverbial meaning. One cannot use such verbs to say ' he is,' ' he was,' ' he will be,' but they may be used to express ' he is ill,' ' he was drunk,' ' he will be thirsty.' In the sentences ' is there thy grain ?' (meaning ' have you grain ?'), ' there is my grain,' *is there* and *there is* would be expressed by a verb *to be*. ' Was he there ' and ' he was there ' would also be expressed by a verb *to be*, only in these sentences the adverb ' there ' may be used or not, at will. While the verb which would be employed in the last two sentences usually means ' to be . . .' or ' to live in a place,' it may also mean simply ' to be ' or ' to exist.' ' I am going to live (be) many years,' would be expressed by this verb.

Verbs ' to be ' are used also to form the passive voice, as well as the periphrastic conjugation of both it and the active voice, in such sentences as ' I was paid,' ' I was going to be paid,' ' I was going to pay.' In all such sentences the verb ' to be ' would be placed last, and the sentences expressed as ' I paid was,' ' I paid going to be was,' ' I going to pay was.'

In Luiseño a very important part is played by what we have termed article-pronouns — a class of suffixes that are oftener affixed to pronouns than to any other part of speech. Though often they may be affixed to any word of a sentence, they are used to denote meanings that in English and cognate languages are either left to be understood or are expressed by circumlocutory methods. Interrogation, quotation, doubt, certainty, and many other things are

expressed in Luiseño by affixing an article-pronoun to a word (usu-
ally the first) of a sentence, without changing the rest of the sentence
to express the different meanings.   As they differ for tense, as well
as for person and number, personal pronouns are often dropped and
article-pronouns affixed to a word of the sentence.   Article-pro-
nouns may be taken by any part of speech, and their use often
renders the employment of personal pronouns unnecessary.   Some
article-pronouns are easy to understand, while others are not.   They
scarcely admit of English translation and may be regarded as the
most difficult feature of Luiseño grammar.   Some examples follow :

EXAMPLES OF ARTICLE PRONOUNS

1. Manuel is going to build a house,   *Manuel-up kĕ'-cho-lut. (kĕsh).*
2. Perhaps Manuel is going to   *Manuel-sho-po kĕ'-cho-lut.*
    build a house.
3. Is Manuel going to build a house ?   *Manuel-sho kĕ'-cho-lut ?*
4. And is Manuel going to build a   *Manuel-shun kĕ'-cho-lut ?*
    house ?
5. So Manuel is going to build a   *Manuel-shil kĕ'-cho-lut.*
    house.
6. It is said Manuel is going to build   *Manuel-kun kĕ'-cho-lut.*
    a house.
7. Is it said Manuel is going to build   *Manuel-sho-kun kĕ'-cho-lut ?*
    a house ?
8. And perhaps Manuel is going to   *Manuel-shun-po kĕ'-cho-lut.*
    build a house.

The above sentences do not differ except in the article-pronouns
that are affixed to the noun Manuel, yet each sentence has a dif-
ferent meaning, though in some of them the difference in the mean-
ing is slight.

Sentence 1 makes a positive statement, something the speaker
certainly knows.   Sentence 2 expresses doubt : perhaps, possibly.
Sentence 3 asks a direct question.   The fourth sentence is also in-
terrogative.   Sentence 5 is semi-interrogative.   Sentence 6 is quo-
tative, something that one has heard stated.   Sentence 7 is quota-
tive-interrogative : one person asks another if he has heard something
stated.   The eighth sentence is, we think, fairly well translated.

An article pronoun may be affixed to the verb instead of to the noun. One may say *Kē'-cho-lut-up Manuel,* instead of *Manuel-up kē'-cho-lut,* and so on.

Kēsh, the objective of *kē'-cha,* 'house,' may be used after the verb in any of the sentences given above; but this is not necessary, as the verb contains the object within itself.

Declension of *hū'-la,* 'an arrow,' or 'the arrow'

	Absolute form.	Possessive form.
Nominative,	*hū'-la.*	*-hū.*
Objective,	*hūl.*	*-hū'-y.*
Accusative,	*hūyk.*	*-hūyk'.*
Ablative,	*hūng-ȳ.*	*-hūng-'-ȳ.*
Instrumental,	*hū'-tul.*	*-hū'-tul.*
Locative,	*hūng'-a.*	*-hūng'-a.*
Genitive,	*hūng'-a-wish.*	*-hūng'-a-wish.*
Conjunctive,	*hū'-man.*	*-hū'-man.*

Plural.

Nominative,	*hū'-lum*	*-hūm.*
Objective,	*hūl'-my.*	*-hū'-my.*
Genitive,	*hūng'-a-wich-um.*	*-hūng'-a-wich-um.*

The other cases do not differ for the plural. The hyphen (-) indicates the possessive pronoun of whichever person might be prefixed to the noun. Thus, *no-hū'* 'my arrow,' *o-hū'* 'thy arrow,' *po-hū'* 'his arrow,' *chām-hū'* 'our arrow,' *om-hū'* 'your arrow,' *pom-hū'* 'their arrow.'

Kū'-ta-pish, 'a bow,' or 'the bow'

	Absolute form.	Possessive form.
Nominative,	*kū'-ta-pish.*	*-kū'-ta-py.*
Objective,	*kū'-ta-pish.*	*-kū'-ta-py.*
Accusative,	*kū'-ta-pik.*	*-kū'-ta-pik.*
Ablative,	*kū'-ta-ping-ȳ.*	*-kū'-ta-ping-ȳ.*
Instrumental,	*kū'-ta-pich-ul.*	*-kū'-ta-py-tul.*
Locative,	*kū'-ta-ping-a.*	*-kū'-ta-ping-a.*
Genitive,	*kū'-ta-ping-a-wish.*	*-kū'-ta-ping-a-wish.*
Conjunctive,	*kū'-ta-py-man.*	*-kū'-ta-py-man.*

	Plural.	
Nominative,	*kū'-ta-pich-um*, or	*-kū'-ta-pim.*
	kū'-tap-chum.	
Objective,	*kū'-ta-pish-my.*	*-kū'-ta-py-mȳ.*
Genitive,	*kū'-ta-ping-a-wich-um.*	*-kū'-ta-ping-a-wich-um.*

As usual, the other cases do not differ for the plural. As often happens, the objective case of this noun does not differ from the nominative in the singular, in either the absolute or the possessive form.

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